



## LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES  
EMPHAT NO. 23  
DATE Feb 16 2009  
BILL NO. SB 451

February 16, 2009

Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Montana Legislature  
Helena, MT

RE: SB 451 - Repeal the Megalandfill Siting Laws

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

Lake County strongly urges the passage of SB451. Nearly ten years ago Lake County tried to site a new landfill and ultimately decided that the cost and regulations were too much. We have now built a transfer station and send our waste to the regional landfill in Missoula.

Nationwide the trend in solid waste is toward construction of large regional landfills. Economic considerations, heavily influenced by regulatory and social forces, are compelling factors leading to this result. According to USEPA, the number of active landfills in the US declined from over 8,000 in 1988 to 1967 in 2000. Montana has seen a similar trend.

The regional landfill in Missoula is well managed and built to EPA and Montana specifications. Without a municipal solid waste landfill of their own, the citizens of Lake County depend on the Missoula landfill for disposal of their solid waste.

**Please vote YES on SB451!**

Sincerely,

Mark E Nelson  
Program Manager  
Lake County Solid Waste District